**Child Safety Resources for Child Safety Investigation**

For this investigation, look for information from reliable websites. Avoid blogs or .coms. Look for government websites; children’s hospitals; Kidsafe etc. Usually .org websites are run by not for profit organisations who have a particular goal to help the community. .com websites may want to sell particular products so their information may not be unbiased.

This table is a summary of **some** of the information that is on the internet about child safety, injury prevention and child safety laws that exist in Australia. There is so much more out there.

Look at the topic column in this table. It has been colour coded to help you to make sense of it.

Purple highlight shows **factual information about child injuries**

Blue Highlight shows **General Household and Product Safety Advice**

Yellow Highlight shows **some community and government initiatives** that have been put inplace to try to help prevent child injuries

Green highlight shows that this section refers to **GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION (LAWS)** that have been created to keep children safe and to try to prevent child injury.

There is a big difference between Government LAWS and Government initiatives.

The ***law is compulsory and it applies to everyone***. If companies **break the law they will face a penalty** (fines; bans; etc depending on what the law says)

If the Government funds an ***initiative, they are saying ‘this is a good idea*** – it is worth trying to do something about this problem. However, we won’t make it compulsory. People can choose to follow it if they wish”.

**Where do I start?**

Read some of the facts about child injury – check the Kidsafe 10 key facts sheet on the wiki

Choose an area of child injury that interests you

Research your topic on the internet.

Make a research table – as you see an example below.

This table will help you to organise your research and help you to track your research for your references.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Content** | **website** |
| **Pool Fencing**  **Swimming Pool Safety Act 2004**  **NT Government legislation** | Pool fencing laws which achieve practical and common sense outcomes took effect from 15 March 2004. The [*Swimming Pool Safety Act 2004*](http://www.watersafety.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/4637/Swimming_Pool_Safety_Act_2004.pdf) applies to residential properties smaller than 1.8 hectares with a swimming pool or spa.  Child safety remains at the heart of the pool safety laws. The Community Safety Standard and the Modified Australian Standard are based on the same intention of preventing young children from obtaining access to a pool or spa area. To comply with safe pool standards, pools and spas must be enclosed by a barrier that will effectively prevent a child under five years of age from obtaining unsupervised access. | http://www.watersafety.nt.gov.au/fencing |
| Seatbelts and Child Restraints****Proposed introduction of new national child restraint laws for the NT**** | The Australian Transport Council (comprising of Transport and Road Safety Minister's from across Australia) approved new Australian Road Rules which mandated for size-appropriate restraints for all children up to the age of seven years. In supporting the adoption of these new national child restraint laws, the Northern Territory Government recognised that some details needed to be further investigated prior to implementation across the Territory.  These new laws are expected to be introduced in the very near future in the Northern Territory and will require drivers to ensure children under the age of seven years are safely and "appropriately" restrained. See below for a brief summary. The Department will make further information available to the community when the new laws are ready for introduction into the Northern Territory | http://www.roadsafety.nt.gov.au/campaign/seatbelts/index.shtml |
| New Child Safety Seat Laws By Emma Walker, 30 Mar 2010 | As the various states and territories around Australia bring in new regulations regarding child safety restraints, parents are quite understandably confused as to what this means for them and many are wondering whether they need to purchase new restraints or even a new car!  Please find below a guide to the laws as they stand (March 2010). Presently, not all states/territories have adopted the changes, but all except the Northern Territory will have implemented them by the end of 2010. | http://www.2under3.com.au/2010/03/30/new-child-safety-seat-laws/ |
| **Household Safety Checklists** | An accident or injury can occur in any part of your home. Some safety hazards are obvious — such as a toy truck left lying at the top of the stairs. Others are not so easily identified — such as a stairway railing that has become loose.  To get started, click on a checklist below. Use these checklists to make a safety check of your home. You should answer "yes" to all of the questions. | <http://www.thechildrenshospital.org/wellness/info/parents/22024.aspx> |
| **Childproofing Cut and Carry** | Childproofing Cut and Carry – a checklist to keep in your purse. When you are shopping for products you can check their safety features and suitability to prevent injury to children. | <http://www.thechildrenshospital.org/wellness/info/parents/38992.aspx> |
| **Childproofing and Preventing Household Accidents** | Household injuries are one of the top reasons kids under age 3 visit the ER, and nearly 70% of the children who die from unintentional injuries at home are 4 years old and under. Young kids have the highest risk of being injured at home because that's where they spend most of their time.  Supervision is the best way to prevent injuries, in the home and out, but even the most watchful parents can't keep kids completely out of harm's way every second of the day.  Here are some simple ways to help prevent injuries in your own home. | <http://www.thechildrenshospital.org/wellness/info/parents/21871.aspx> |
| SafeStartCommunity Partnerships for targeted reduction of child injuries | SafeStart is a new State Government initiative funded by the Department of Human Services. It focuses on the prevention of unintentional injury in children through working with local governments and communities. The program aims to explore ways to achieve uptake and support for proven or promising interventions in a small number of specific child injury areas. As a way to build long-term local government and community level commitment and capacity to respond to unintentional injury issues, the program will test the approach of involving local communities in the management and implementation of proven interventions. Three local government demonstration sites have been established for this initiative: Shire of Yarra Ranges, City of Ballarat and City of Greater Dandenong.  The priority areas will be the home and play settings that encompass a range of unintentional injury issues amongst 0-8 year olds, including unintentional poisoning, drowning, near drowning, falls and a range of outdoor recreational injuries encountered during play activity. | <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/injury/safestart> |
| **Ten key facts about**  **child injury in Australia** | **Facts sheet from kidsafe**  **1.** From 1979 to 1998 **9,072** Australian children (aged 0-14years) were **killed** and **60,707 hospitalised** by unintentional  injuries – the kind often referred to as ‘accidents’. Many of these can be easily prevented by simple means.  **Six home features that help keep kids safe**  **How safe are our homes?**  Three out of four serious injuries to young children occur in the place you’d think they’d be safest – their own home.  Try checking your home against the following list of home safety features: | <http://www.gtp.com.au/kidsafesa/inewsfiles/inews.61635.1.pdf> |
| **Most Childhood Injuries Occur at Home** | Overall, researchers estimated that there are 4 million [emergency](http://www.thechildrenshospital.org/wellness/info/parents/21683.aspx) department visits for childhood injuries that occur at home each year. More than half a million children have moderate to severe injuries, and more than 73,680 children are hospitalized each year from injuries that occur in private homes. Children under 5 years of age were more likely to be injured than kids older than 9, and boys visited the emergency department more often than girls for injuries that occurred at home. Falls were the most common type of injury - they account for an estimated 1.5 million emergency department visits annually. The extremities - including the arms, legs, hands, and feet - were the most frequently injured body parts. | http://www.thechildrenshospital.org/wellness/info/news/41169.aspx |
| **Ten Most Common Injuries to Australian Children** | The 10 most common injuries to children aged 0 - 14, in Australia, are listed below with suggestions of websites to visit for further information.  For statistical information regarding these injuries, contact the organisations listed at the [bottom of this page](http://www.kidsafensw.org/ten_most_common.htm#sites).  The 10 most common injuries to Australian children are: 1. [As Car Passengers](http://www.kidsafensw.org/ten_most_common.htm#car) 2. [As Pedestrians](http://www.kidsafensw.org/ten_most_common.htm#ped) 3. [Drowning](http://www.kidsafensw.org/ten_most_common.htm#drown) 4. [House Fires](http://www.kidsafensw.org/ten_most_common.htm#fire) 5. [Falls](http://www.kidsafensw.org/ten_most_common.htm#fall) 6. [Nursery Furniture](http://www.kidsafensw.org/ten_most_common.htm#nursery) 7. [Scalds](http://www.kidsafensw.org/ten_most_common.htm#scalds) 8. [Poisoning](http://www.kidsafensw.org/ten_most_common.htm#poison) 9. [Bicycles](http://www.kidsafensw.org/ten_most_common.htm#bicycle) 10. [In-line Skates and Skateboards](http://www.kidsafensw.org/ten_most_common.htm#skates) | <http://www.kidsafensw.org/ten_most_common.htm> |
| **National child restraint laws effective 1 March 2010 - FAQs** | **What are the new laws in regards to child restraints?**  All children under seven years of age must be secured in a child restraint or booster seat when traveling in a vehicle. The new child restraint laws in NSW are based on national model legislation.  Babies up to six months of age must be restrained in a rearward facing restraint.  Children from six months to under four years of age must be restrained in a rearward facing or forward facing restraint. Children under four years of age must not be in the front row of a vehicle with two or more rows.  From four years to under seven years of age a forward facing restraint or booster seat must be used. Children from four to under seven years of age can only sit in the front row of a vehicle with two or more rows when all other seats are occupied by children of a lesser age in an approved child restraint.  The ages specified above are a guide for the safety of your child. If your child is too small for a restraint specified for their age, they should be kept in their current restraint for as long as necessary.  If your child is too large for a restraint specified for their age, they may move to the next level of restraint | http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/children/childrestraints/childrestraintlaws\_faqs.html |
| **Australian/New Zealand Standard™**  **Child restraint systems for use in motor**  **vehicles**  **AS/NZS** | **Forward to the standard which sets out specifications for the childe restraints**  For many years the design and performance criteria specified in the Australia/New Zealand Standard for child restraints (AS/NZS 1754) have been considered the most demanding in the world. In comparison to other published standards, AS/NZS 1754 has additional requirements for dynamic testing including side impact, and inverted impacts for roll over/ejection assessment. | http://www.saiglobal.com/PDFTemp/Previews/OSH/as/as1000/1700/1754-2004(+A1).pdf |
| **Australian Standards** | In some cases, rather than to control its supply, it is more appropriate to declare mandatory information or safety standard to require that a product meet certain conditions.  Mandatory safety standards are declared for products that have been shown to present undue hazards.  Information standards are introduced when consumers need to be informed about a product. In declaring mandatory standards the government protects consumers by specifying minimum requirements that must be met before products are sold.  There are two types of mandatory product standards:   * Safety standards: These require goods to comply with particular performance, composition, contents, methods of manufacture or processing, design, construction, finish or packaging rules (e.g. construction of toys for children under three years). * Information standards: These require prescribed information to be given to consumers when they purchase specified goods (e.g. labelling for cosmetics, tobacco products and care labelling for clothing and textile products). | http://www.consumer.tas.gov.au/product\_safety#unsafeproduct |
| **Toy and Nursery Safety Line - Call 1300 364 894** | Are you worried about the safety of your child's toys and nursery equipment?  Now you can call the Toy and Nursery Safety Line on 1300 364 894.  Dedicated staff will give you product safety updates and follow up any safety concerns.  Run in association with Consumer Affairs Victoria, the Toy and Nursery Safety Line helps Tasmanians and Victorians reduce the risk of injuries to babies and children as well as:   * providing product safety updates; * answering queries; and * following up on concerns you wish to report related to toys and nursery equipment. | http://www.consumer.tas.gov.au/product\_safety#unsafeproduct |
| **Furniture safety film** | **Climb, tumble, fall: steps to furniture safety** is a four-minute film that explains how furniture around your home can be dangerous for young children.  Most furniture related injuries occur when children push or pull items over, climb and fall off furniture, or climb and tip furniture and heavy appliances over.  The film highlights the risks of furniture stability and tip-over injuries and provides information on how to make your home safe. | http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/furniture-safety-film.htm |
| **Safety initiatives** | We run a number of campaigns on topical safety issues to increase public awareness of important safety messages. Some common consumer products may present hidden dangers to you and your family. Help make your home safer by following the seven easy steps for each of the following products or situations  [Christmas lights](http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/christmas-lights.htm) Important information you need to know about buying, using and storing Christmas lights.  [Bunk bed safety](http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/bunk-bed-safety.htm) Follow these seven easy steps for bunk bed safety.  [Holiday safe](http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/holiday-safe.htm) Follow these seven important tips to ensure your holiday accommodation is safe for you and your children.  [Portable cots](http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/portable-cots.htm) Follow these seven easy steps for portable cot safety.  [Furniture stability](http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/furniture-safety.htm) Follow these seven easy steps to ensure your household furniture is stable and secure.  [Furniture safety film](http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/furniture-safety-film.htm) View the *Climb, tumble, fall: steps to furniture safety* film.  [Child restraints](http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/child-restraints.htm) Follow these seven easy steps for having safe and correctly fitted child restraints in your car.  [Treadmills](http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/treadmill-safety.htm) Follow these seven easy steps for treadmill safety around children.  [Blind and curtain cords](http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/blind-curtain-cords.htm) Follow these seven easy steps for blind and curtain cord safety. Order your free safety tassels to reduce the risk of strangulation hazards on your blind and curtain cords.  [Sleep safe](http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/safe-sleep.htm) Follow these seven easy safe sleep steps for your baby. | http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/safety-initiatives.htm |
| **Child Restraint laws** | New child restraint laws New national child restraint laws were introduced in NSW on 1 March 2010. A transitional period was in place until 30 June 2010 to give parents and carers time to fully understand and comply with the new laws. However, all children up to seven years of age must now be safely fastened into the right restraint for their age and size.  A child that is properly secured in an approved child restraint is less likely to be injured or killed in a car crash than one who is not.  **Summary of changes**  The new national child restraint laws state:   * Children younger than six months must be secured in a rearward facing restraint. * Children aged six months to under four years must be secured in either a rear or forward facing restraint. * Children aged four years to under seven years must be secured in forward facing child restraint or booster seat. * Children younger than four years cannot travel in the front seat of a vehicle with two or more rows. * Children aged four years to under seven years cannot travel in the front seat of a vehicle with two or more rows, unless all other back seats are occupied by children younger than seven years in a child restraint or booster seat. | http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/children/childrestraints/index.html |
| **Product Safety Australia-Children’s Nightwear safety standard** | Mandatory standard—Nightwear for children  This mandatory standard came into effect on 1 March 2007. It covers safety and labelling requirements for children's nightwear and paper patterns for making children's nightwear.  Nightwear for children includes the following items:   * pyjamas * pyjama-style over-garments * nightdresses * nightshirts * dressing gowns * bathrobes * infant sleep bags * other items styled and recognised as nightwear * knitted all-in-ones, sizes 00–2, of any style, made from fabrics with a mass less than 280 g/m2 * knitted all-in-ones, sizes 2 and over, of a style which identifies them as nightwear * woven all-in-ones, of a style which identifies them as nightwear and * loose boxer shorts.   Unless stated otherwise, this refers to sizes 00–14.  The mandatory standard also covers paper patterns for making children's nightwear | http://www.accc.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/614085 |
| **Mandatory standards** | The purpose of a mandatory standard is to make particular safety or information features on consumer products compulsory for legal supply of the product into the Australian market.  The Commonwealth minister can impose mandatory safety standards that set specific requirements for consumer goods or product-related services.  It is an offence to supply consumer goods or product-related services that do not comply with mandatory standards. View [Penalties & consequences](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/970499) for more information about mandatory standards and the law.  This site lists all mandatory safety standards and mandatory information standards relevant to product safety.  [Mandatory standard—Aquatic toys](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/973551)  The mandatory standard for aquatic toys came into effect on 1 April 2010 and is the only mandatory standard for aquatic toys. It covers labelling for aquatic toys.  [Mandatory standard—Babies' dummies](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/971564)  The mandatory standard for baby dummies came into effect on 20 October 2006. It covers requirements for design, construction and safety labelling.  [Mandatory standard—Baby walkers](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/973760)  This mandatory standard came into effect on 1 November 2002. It covers design, construction, performance and labelling requirements for baby walkers.  [Mandatory standard—Balloon blowing kits](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/974042)  The mandatory standard for balloon blowing kits came into effect on 1 December 2004. It specifies that balloon blowing kits cannot contain the chemical benzene in the synthetic substance.  [Mandatory standard—Basketball rings and backboards](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/974240)  The mandatory standard for basketball rings and backboards came into effect on 11 October 2005. It covers specific safety marking requirements for basketball rings and backboards.  [Mandatory standard—Bean bags](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/971646)  The mandatory standard for bean bags came into effect on 28 October 1987 and was last amended 1 December 2004. It applies to bean bag covers and packages containing bean bag filling.  [Mandatory standard—Bicycle helmets](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/974624)  The mandatory standard for bicycle helmets covers design, construction and safety marking requirements for bicycle helmets.  [Mandatory standard—Blinds, curtains and window fittings](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/981424)  The mandatory standard for internal blinds, curtains and window fittings (corded internal window coverings) was declared on 8 July 2010 and applies to relevant blinds, curtains and some fittings supplied after 30 December 2010. This page includes information on hazards and how to comply with the national mandatory standard.  [Mandatory standard—Bunk beds](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/974818)  The mandatory standard for bunk beds came into effect on 7 April 2005. It covers specific construction, design and labelling requirements for bunk beds.  [Mandatory standard—Child restraints for motor vehicles](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/973975)  The mandatory standard for child restraints for motor vehicles came into effect on 7 November 1978 and was last amended 6 September 2007. It covers various requirements for the design, construction, performance, user instructions, marking and packaging of child car restraints.  [Mandatory standard—Children's portable folding cots](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/975008)  The mandatory standard for children's portable folding cots came in to effect on 1 March 2009. It covers testing, design and construction, safety and performance and safety markings for folding cots.  [Mandatory standard—Children's toys containing magnets](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/975279)  The mandatory standard for children's toys containing magnets was declared on 16 February 2010 and came into effect on 1 July 2010. It covers warning labels required for packaging, and instructions to prevent serious illness that can result if children swallow hazardous magnets.  [Mandatory standard—Household cots](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/975196)  The mandatory standard for household cots came into effect on 3 December 2005. It covers various requirements for new, second-hand, antique and collectable cots.  [Mandatory standard—Nightwear for children](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/973519)  This mandatory standard came into effect on 1 March 2007. It covers safety and labelling requirements for children's nightwear and paper patterns for making children's nightwear.  [Mandatory standard—Toys for children up to and including 36 months of age](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/974860)  The mandatory standard for toys for children up to and including 36 months of age came into effect on 17 December 2003. It covers specific testing methods, as well as design and construction requirements.  [Mandatory standard—Swimming and flotation aids for water familiarisation and swimming tuition](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/973508)  The mandatory standard for swimming and flotation aids came into effect on 1 April 2010 and is the only mandatory standard for swimming and flotation aids. It covers labelling for swimming and flotation aids.  [Mandatory standard—Projectile toys](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/981392)  The mandatory standard for projectile toys was declared on 7 July 2010 and comes into effect on 31 December 2010. This page includes information on hazards and how to comply with this mandatory standard.  [Mandatory standard—Prams and strollers](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/974064)  The mandatory standard for prams and strollers came into effect on 1 July 2008. It covers performance testing, design, construction, safety warnings and informative labels for prams and strollers.  [Mandatory standard—Pedal bicycles](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/973482)  This mandatory standard came into effect on 30 October 1980 and was last amended on 2 November 2004. It covers design and labelling requirements for child and adult pedal bicycles.  [Mandatory standard—Lead and other elements in toys and finger paints](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/981719)  The mandatory standard for toys and finger paints containing lead and other elements came into effect on 1 January 2010. | http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/970773 |
| **Safety Fact Sheet**  **Toys** | The Children’s Hospital Westmead has produced a toy safety fact sheet to highlight the safety considerations and the Australian mandatory standards for children’s toys. | http://www.chw.edu.au/parents/kidshealth/safety\_factsheets/pdf/toys.pdf |
| **Mandatory standard**  **Toys for children up to and including 36 months of age** | The mandatory standard for toys for children up to and including 36 months of age came into effect on 17 December 2003. It covers specific testing methods, as well as design and construction requirements. The mandatory standard was created to reduce the chances of small parts coming off toys during play or after reasonable wear and tear, therefore helping to prevent choking, suffocation or death. HazardsChoking or suffocation If young children put toys or parts of toys in their mouth they could choke on them.  If the toy or part gets stuck in their throat and blocks their breathing, they could suffocate. Loss of consciousness or death Children can suffer asphyxia (when oxygen stops entering the body) as a result of toys or parts of toys blocking their breathing.  Asphyxia causes loss of consciousness or death. | http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/974860 |
| **Product safety** | New mandatory standards The ACCC is keen to alert suppliers to requirements of two new mandatory standards:   1. Children’s portable folding cots, effective from 1 March 2009. 2. Lead in children’s toys, effective from 1 January 2010.   The existing ban on lead in children’s toys will be extended and remain in force until 31 December 2008 | <http://www.accc.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/869690> |